



Public Notice

**US ARMY CORPS
OF ENGINEERS**
St. Louis District
Gateway to Excellence

Reply To:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: CEMVS-CO-F
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

Public Notice No.
P-2394
Public Notice Date
January 8, 2004
Expiration Date
January 29, 2003

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

File Number: 2002-04780

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States, as described below and shown on the attached maps.

COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Comments on the described work should reference the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers File Number shown above and must reach this office no later than the above expiration date of the Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Comments should be mailed to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833
ATTN: Shawn Sullivan

APPLICANT: St. Louis County Parks, 41 South Central Avenue, 7th Floor, St. Louis, Missouri 63105, (314) 615-7131

AGENT: Eric W. Morff, Farnsworth Group, Inc., 20 Allen Avenue, Suite 200, St. Louis, Missouri 63119, (314) 962-7900

LOCATION: The project area is located in a tract of land being part of U.S. Survey 1928, and Section 9, Township 44 North, Range 5 East, St. Louis County, Missouri.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant seeks authorization to improve the existing Museum of Transportation facility by constructing a new visitor's center, miniature railroad, parking lot, interpretive walking trail, and access road. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) determined in August 2002 that the site contains two unnamed tributaries that are both considered jurisdictional waters of the United States. The tributaries flow into the Meramec River. One tributary, determined to be intermittent, enters the site under Barrett Station Road and flows south and west across the site for 1,830 lineal feet. Approximately 160 lineal feet of the 1,830 lineal feet of intermittent tributary channel has been enclosed in pipes to support three road crossings. The upper 420 lineal feet of intermittent tributary has been historically channelized by filling activities that occurred from the 1940's to the 1970's. A second tributary determined ephemeral jurisdictional by the (USACE), flows northwest across the site for 420 lineal feet before converging with the intermittent tributary.

Approximately 50 lineal feet of the ephemeral tributary channel has been enclosed in a pipe to support a road crossing. The channel has also been significantly degraded due to the historic filling that occurred on the site.

The proposed site improvements require relocating approximately 990 lineal feet of the unnamed intermittent tributary. Approximately 135 lineal feet of the 990-foot long reach of intermittent tributary proposed for relocation is currently enclosed in a pipe. The upper 570 lineal feet of intermittent tributary proposed for relocation will be placed into a new 570-foot long open channel. The remaining 420 lineal feet of intermittent tributary channel will be enclosed in a pipe and converge back with the existing intermittent tributary channel. The channel relocation and partial enclosure will allow for the development of a new visitor's center, walking trail, parking lot, and miniature railroad track. A linear road crossing is also proposed near the western site boundary to support a second miniature railroad crossing over the intermittent tributary. The road crossing will impact 120 lineal feet of intermittent tributary. Total impacts to the intermittent tributary are 975 lineal feet. A stormwater retention basin is also proposed near the western site boundary to retain stormwater runoff from the parking lot prior to overflowing into the intermittent tributary. Both open reaches of ephemeral tributary will be enclosed in a pipe for 370 lineal feet. The ephemeral tributary will be piped to support filling for construction of the walking trail and construction of the new visitor's center.

The applicant proposes to construct the new channel reach to convey existing flows and enhance the upper reach of intermittent tributary from its existing state. The open reach of new tributary is proposed to be enhanced by creating a low flow channel backfilled with river gravel, contain moderate sloping banks vegetated with grasses and shrubs, and tree plantings along the top of bank to re-establish the riparian corridor. The new enhanced channel is proposed as mitigation to offset the loss of approximately 570 lineal feet of intermittent tributary. Mitigation is also proposed along the undisturbed reach of intermittent tributary by enhancing the riparian corridor with tree plantings. An approximate 25-foot long road crossing may also be removed from the tributary channel within the mitigation area to serve as channel restoration.

LOCATION MAPS AND DRAWINGS: See Attached

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information may be obtained by contacting Shawn Sullivan, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at (314) 331-8580. Your inquiries may also be sent by electronic facsimile to (314) 331-8741 or by e-mail to Shawn.F.Sullivan@mvs02.usace.army.mil.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be processed under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: The project plans have been submitted to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Pollution Control Program for state certification of the proposed work in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The certification is requested as of the date of this Public Notice, and if issued, will express the Agency's opinion that the proposed activities will not violate applicable water quality standards. Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Missouri should be addressed to: Water Pollution Control Program, Post Office Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0176, with a copy provided to the Corps of Engineers.

SECTION 404 (b)(1) EVALUATION: The impact of the activity on the public interest will be evaluated in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency guidelines pursuant to Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the applicant's proposal. Any request for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reason for the hearing, and must be based on issues that would warrant additional public review.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: A preliminary determination, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, as amended, has been made that the work that is proposed would not affect species designated as threatened or endangered, or adversely affect critical habitat. Therefore, no formal consultation request has been made to the United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. In order to complete our evaluation, comments are solicited from the Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals through this Public Notice.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The St. Louis District will evaluate information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the public in response to this public notice and we may require a reconnaissance survey of the project area.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the described activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit that may reasonably be expected to accrue from the described activity must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the activity described, will be considered including the cumulative effects. Among factors considered are: conservation; economics; aesthetics; general environmental concerns; wetlands; historic properties; fish and wildlife values; flood hazards; flood plain values; land use; navigation; shoreline erosion and accretion; recreation; water supply and conservation; water quality; energy needs; safety; food and fiber production; mineral needs; consideration of property ownership; and in general the needs and welfare of the people.

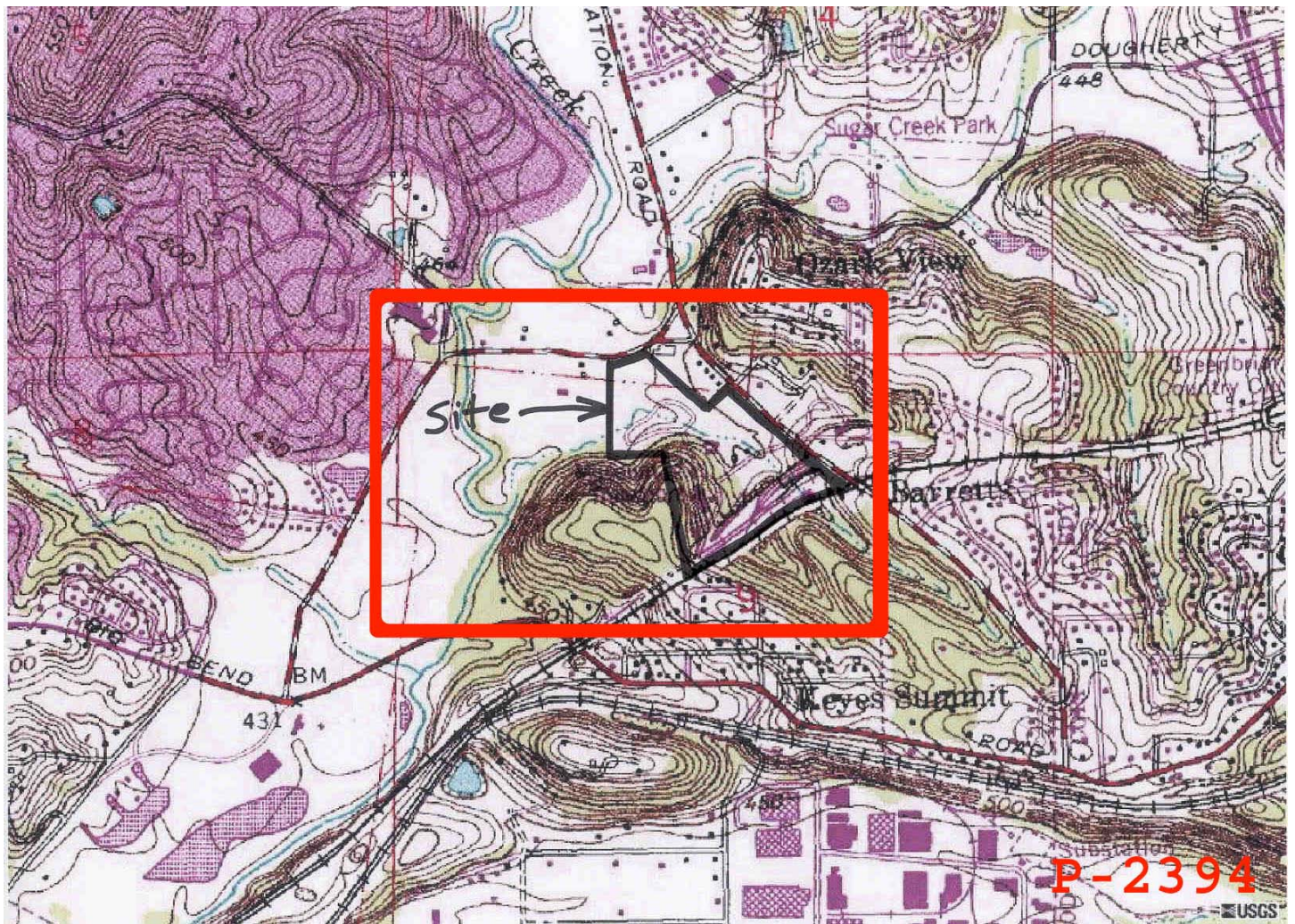
SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

DANNY D. MCCLENDON
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachment: Sheet No. 1 – Location Map
Attachment: Sheet No. 2 – Cover Sheet
Attachment: Sheet No. 3 – Site Layout Plan (North)
Attachment: Sheet No. 4 – Site Layout Plan (Central)
Attachment: Sheet No. 5 – Site Layout Plan (South)

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually placed for 21 days from the date of this issuance of this notice.

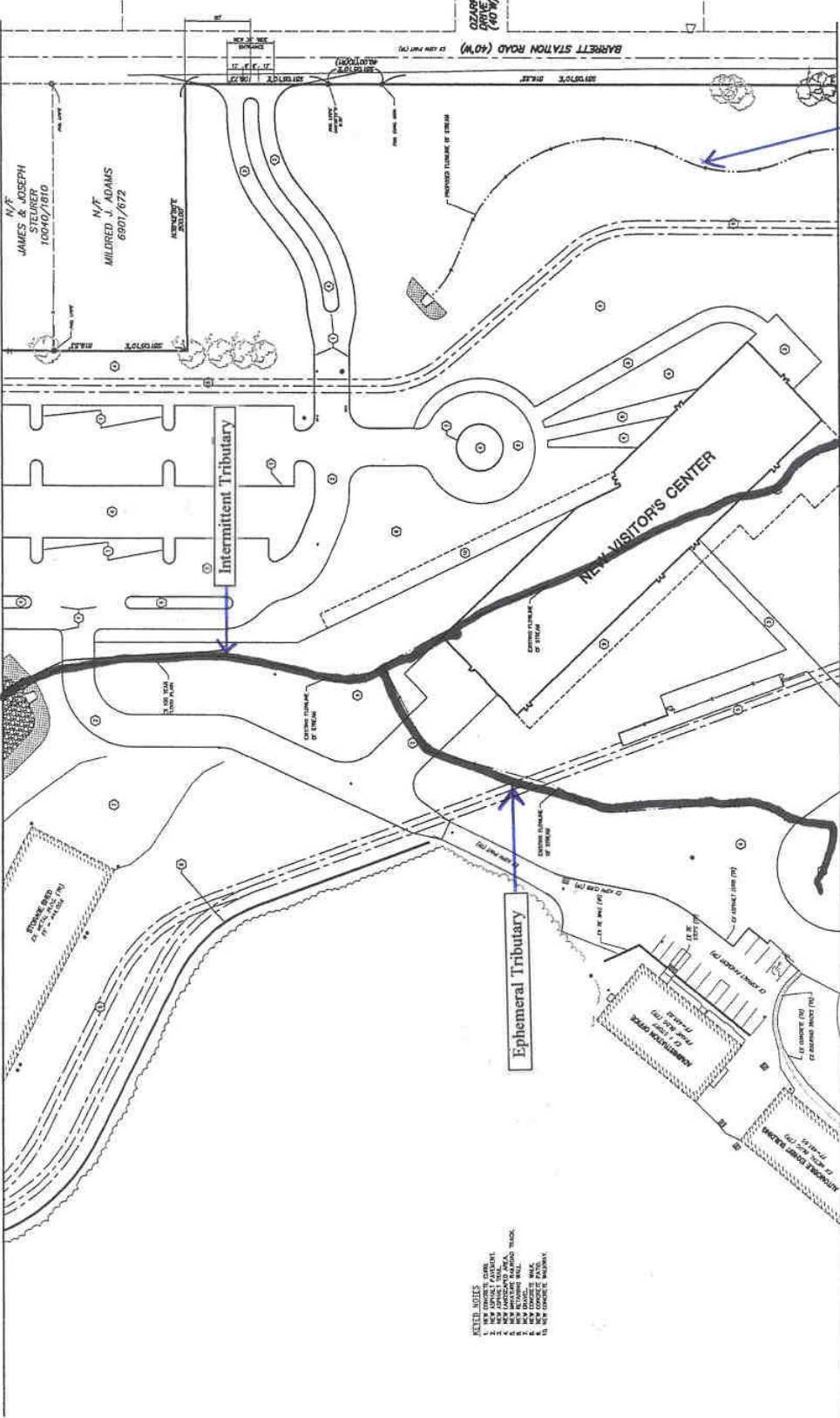


Match Line Refer to Sheet C11 for Continuation

Match Line Refer to Sheet C13 for Continuation

Site Layout Plan (Central)

Scale: 1"=30'



Relocated Tributary

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Intermittent Tributary

Relocated Tributary

Match Line Refer to Sheet C1.2 for Continuation



Site Layout Plan (South)

Scale: 1"=30'

KEYED NOTES

1. NEW CONCRETE CURB.
2. NEW SIGNAL PAYMENT.
3. NEW ASPHALT TRAIL.
4. NEW LANDSCAPE AREA.
5. NEW SIGNATURE RAILROAD TRAIL.
6. NEW INLANDING MAIL.
7. NEW GRAVES.
8. NEW CONCRETE WALK.
9. NEW CONCRETE PAVES.
10. NEW CONCRETE MAINWAY.

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